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to curb at least the abuse of child labor which exists in most small shops. This might be done by occasional spot checks. One of the difficulties, however, is the inadequacy of the enforcement staff of the Directorate of Labor and Social Affairs in the Ministry of Economics. At the beginning of 1954 there were apparently only eight inspectors assigned to the enforcement of the labor code. We urge that the number be increased and that for this purpose an additional £S 325,000 be made available to the Labor Directorate over the next six years.

The Tourist Industry

In the discussion of the proposed investment bank, we have already indicated that this institution might assist in financing hotels, as well as manufacturing industries and agriculture. Although this chapter focuses on the problem of developing manufacturing, it appears appropriate to mention here also the possibilities of the tourist industry. Syria has much to interest the tourist from the West. On its soil many civilizations and cultures have flourished and left their imprint. There are countless archaeological sites which are still yielding up treasured relics of the past, numerous ancient Greco-Roman and early Christian cities, fascinating ruined Christian churches and imposing mosques, old Crusader castles and Arab forts. Both Aleppo and Damascus, which vie with each other in the claim to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, intrigue the tourist with their blend of the ancient, the picturesque and the modern.

In the postwar period the airplane has greatly extended the orbit of travel for the American and West European, and rising standards of living have enabled many more to travel abroad than before. In Greece, for example, the number of foreign tourists rose from about 33,000 in 1950 to almost 76,000 in 1953, and the per capita expenditure is said to have doubled during this period. Unfortunately, the mission was unable to obtain figures on the total of foreign travellers visiting Syria, but the number has undoubtedly increased significantly. Many travellers to the Holy Land now stop over in Syria. This tourist trade could be greatly expanded if a concerted attempt were made to advertise the attractions of Syria and to improve the inadequate accommodations available to foreigners.

More and better hotels, good communications and adequate preservation and presentation of historical and cultural monuments are all impor-

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tant elements in a program to attract more tourists. At present Damascus is the only Syrian city with first class hotel accommodations and even here there is an acute shortage. Such cities and towns as Aleppo, Latakia and Palmyra all urgently require good hotels for tourists and other travellers. Construction and operation of hotels should, of course, be left to private enterprise encouraged by the government and assisted by the projected investment bank. There are, however, a number of places of potential importance to the tourist trade where rest houses and restaurants rather than hotels are needed. Such facilities are not likely to be sufficiently profitable, at least in the beginning, to attract private investment. We suggest, therefore, that the government spend approximately £S 500,000 on the erection and operation of rest houses and restaurants at such locations as Ras Shamra (site of ancient city of Ugarit), Saint Simeon (ruins of old city and monastery-church in Djebel es Smaane), Al Rasafa (Christian monuments and Moslem palace), Doura Europos (ancient city), Krak des Chevaliers (crusaders' castle), Tartous and Soueida. As a UNESCO mission has suggested, some of these could probably be constructed inside existing historical buildings, thus leaving the appearance of the site undisturbed and enhancing their appeal to tourists.

The interest of tourists in the historical and archaeological treasures of Syria also provides a definite economic justification for increasing the expenditures of the Directorate General of Antiquities. This government department has jurisdiction over museums, historical monuments and archaeological excavations. It finances its operations in part from its own receipts, but the government has during the last two years contributed, on the average, £S 763,000 to its annual budget of a little over £S 1 million. In 1954 its total planned investment was about £S 450,000, of which £S 280,000 was devoted to museums, £S 120,000 to the reconstruction of monuments and £S 50,000 to excavations. Damascus possesses a notable museum of which the country can well be proud, but about £S 1 million is still required for its completion. The Aleppo museum, which houses many fine treasures, admittedly needs a new building at a cost of £S 1 million, and appropriate regional and local museums would help the visitor to visualize the cultural heritage and archaeological finds of particular localities. Although all of this could not be realized within the 1955-60 period, we suggest that £S 2.4 million be provided to complete the Damascus museum, establish a few local museums in such places as Ras Shamra and Palmyra and at least start the new building in Aleppo.

have seen the constant stream of visitors, often quite humble people, gazing at the showcases of exhibits from Mari, Ras-Shamra and Aleppo; while they are there, these visitors also go round the museum and have an opportunity of admiring its treasures. In addition, it would be very helpful if the government, which furthers the training of scientific specialists by providing fellowships for study abroad, and does so much to develop the schools, were to introduce courses on the history of Syrian art and antiquities into the curricula of Syrian secondary schools and higher educational establishments, both in Damascus and Aleppo.

Tourist development could also do much to help in the protection of historic monuments by showing the population that they can provide a steady source of income. From this point of view, Syria's art treasures have, as yet, scarcely been exploited. In the absence of suitable facilities and adequate publicity, there is still very little tourist traffic in Syria. A great deal of extremely useful work could be done in this field by an active organization, supported by the State. In order to attract foreigners to a country so rich both in natural beauties and impressive remains, it should only be necessary to improve certain sections of roads and establish one or two conveniently situated and unpretentious but well-run hotels or rest-houses, where visitors can eat and sleep in pleasant surroundings. It is astonishing that sites as fascinating as Palmyra, St. Simeon or the Krak des Chevaliers should still be so hard to reach when it would be relatively simple to organize tours either by road or air. In this respect, Greece, where the tourist trade has advanced by leaps and bounds in the space of a few years, and is now making a considerable contribution to the country's economic resources, seems to us to provide a particularly good example of what can be done in this way.

We shall have to consider town planning in greater detail